

Sotheby's

Press Release New York

For Immediate Release

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SOTHEBY'S TO PRESENT THE COLLECTION OF ROBERT S PIRIE

Two Dedicated Auctions 2-5 December 2015

The Finest Collection Of Early English Literature In Private Hands



The interior of Robert S Pirie's town house in New York's West Village

From 2-5 December 2015 Sotheby's New York will present the single-owner sale of Property from the Collection of Robert S Pirie, one of the world's leading book collectors. Over 60 years, Mr. Pirie built the finest collection of 16th and 17th-century English literature in private hands with significant copies of works by Shakespeare, Ben Jonson, Marlowe, and John Donne among others. Mr. Pirie was a knowledgeable and dedicated collector whose library is made all the more extraordinary by the particular emphasis he placed on the

hardest to find works with distinguished provenance. In addition to his prominence in the world of rare books, Mr. Pirie was a leading financier and widely admired New York *Renaissance Man*. Overall the collection is estimated to fetch in excess of \$15 million with highlights on view at Sotheby's London from 3-6 October before the exhibition in New York in late November.

David Redden, Sotheby's Vice Chairman commented: "Those lucky enough to have known Bob Pirie remember an utterly charming man of forceful, but thoughtful, convictions, of supreme good taste, and of great generosity as a master host. He had the widest circle of friends—his interest was interesting people, and they flocked to him in droves. His astonishing book collection reflected yet another side of his complex personality—his passionate engagement with early English literature, his fascination with provenance and his love of the sheer beauty of the English language."



Born in Chicago and Harvard educated, Robert Pirie (1934-2015) was a celebrated corporate lawyer and investment banker, described in a 1988 New York Times profile as "Megadealer for the Rothschilds" who was as dynamic as he was successful. Iconoclastic and larger than life, he was many things - an accomplished sailor, generous philanthropist, and enthusiastic progressive. Indeed, Mr. Pirie was the nephew of two-time presidential candidate Adlai Stevenson and, to his delight, was on Richard Nixon's 'Enemies List'.

Mr. Pirie's overriding passion though was books which he housed in his West Village town-house. The collection focused on the Elizabethan and post-Shakespeare periods with works by Bacon, Burton, Beaumont and Fletcher, Cowley, Crashaw, Ben Jonson, Marlowe, Marvell, and, supremely, John Donne. In addition the extensive range of prints, drawings, English silver, French porcelain, and Asian art with which he surrounded himself showed the refined taste for which Mr. Pirie was so renowned.

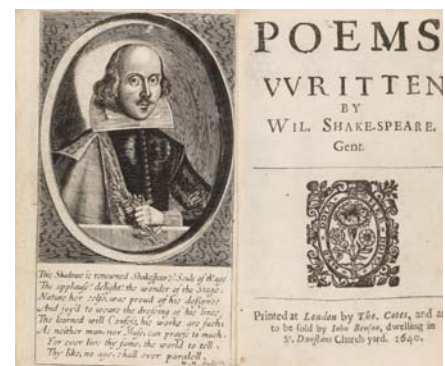
HIGHLIGHTS

William Shakespeare

Poems (1640)

First collected edition of Shakespeare's Poems, containing all but eight of the sonnets and other shorter, non-dramatic verse.

Est. \$150/200,000

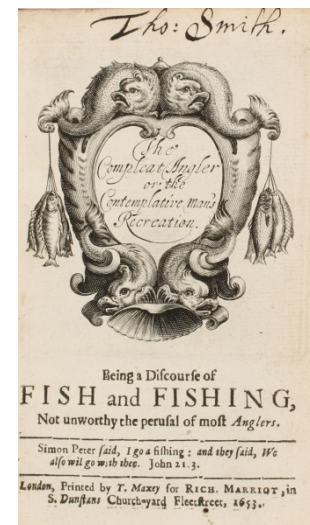


John Donne

Pseudo-Martyr (1610)

One of only two surviving presentation copies of Donne's first published work, with his signed autograph letter of transmittal to Lord Chancellor Ellesmere.

Est. \$150/200,000

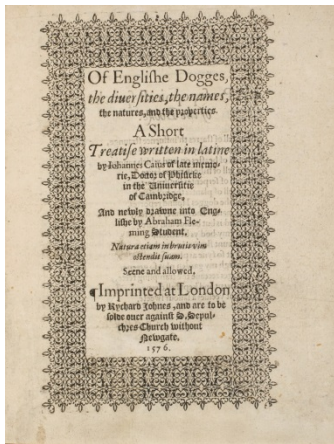


Izaak Walton

Compleat Angler (1653)

An unusually fine copy of the first edition of a cornerstone of angling and English literature.

Est. \$70/100,000

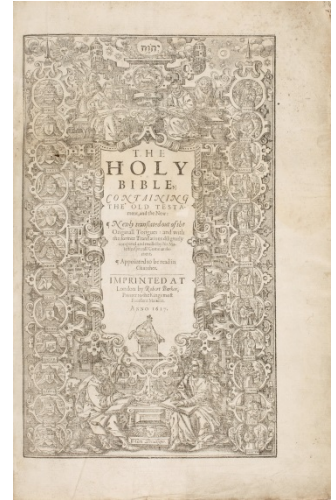


John Caius Englishe Dogges (1576)

The first English-language edition of the first English book on dogs, this copy boasts distinguished provenance.
Est. \$30/50,000

Bible In English

Charles I's copy, bound for him, of the third folio edition of the King James Bible (1617).
Est. \$50/70,000



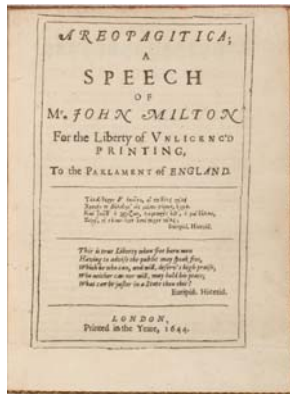
A fine example of a presentation binding commissioned by the author Elkanah Settle on a copy of his Virgin Prophetess (1701) given to the financier Sir Charles Duncombe.
Estimate: \$8,000-12,000

Geoffrey Chaucer

Canterbury Tales (1526)

One of the rarest editions of Canterbury Tales, the fifth overall and fourth to be illustrated.
Est. \$200/300,000





John Milton
Areopagitica (1644)
 A first edition of Milton's enduring defense of freedom of the press.
 Est. \$25/35,000

Isaac Newton
Opticks (1704),
 Presentation copy of Isaac Newton's *Opticks*, given by Newton to the astronomer Edmund Halley, who has inscribed the title-page "Luceo. Ex dono doctissimi Authoris"
 Est. \$400/600,000



Jacques Laurent Agasse
A Pointer
 signed and dated Agasse 1793 on the verso and inscribed à Eugene Duval / partage du 7 Nov 18*6 in a later hand on the verso
 oil on board
 7 1/8 by 9 in
 Est. \$40/60,000

Pablo Picasso
Étude d'un Espagnol
 black crayon on paper
 Executed circa 1899-1900.
 3 7/8 by 6 1/8 in.
 Est. \$70/90,000





**Garniture Of Three Vincennes Bleu Lapis
Flower Pots And Stands**
(Vases 'Hollandois' 1er Et 2eme Grandeur)
Circa 1756
Est. \$200/300,000

Robert Garrard
**The Chesterfield Service: A Set of Six George IV Silver
Candlesticks**
London, 1826
height 14 1/8 in.
Est. \$80/120,000



A Charles I Gold Triple Unite
Oxford mint
1643
Est. \$30/50,000



A Fruitwood Relief of Jupiter and Juno
Netherlandish, 17th Century
Height: 20 3/4 in.
Est. \$12/18,000



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